

Southwest Oncology Group offer patients access to the newest treatment protocols. The radiation oncology service is the busiest in the state and the center offers free annual screenings for skin, prostate, breast and oral cancer. The oncology center goes beyond medical treatment, offering weekly support groups for patients, a comprehensive calendar of educational programs and extensive home care programs that aid not just cancer patients but their families as well.

A distinguishing characteristic of Valley's cancer programs is the availability and quality of radiation seed implant therapy for prostate cancer. Valley has attracted patients from around the world as the result of its unique prostate implant program, pioneered by urologist Howard Sandler, M.D., and radiation oncologist David Greenblatt, M.D. Physicians from across the country have come to Valley to learn brachytherapy from Drs. Sandler and Greenblatt and Dr. Michael Wesson, also a radiation oncologist.

During our lifetime, we have seen cancer go from a virtual death sentence to a disease that is often treatable, survivable and preventable. The overall survival rate for all forms of cancer—including the worst varieties—now stands at 60 percent. The survival rate for some of the better-understood cancers, such as breast cancer, is 81 percent. And if all Americans participated in screenings that could catch cancer at its early stages, experts estimate that 95 percent of cancer patients would survive. Since 1990, cancer death rates have been dropping an average 0.6 percent per year, according to the National Cancer Institute.

Despite these advances, more than 1.2 million new cancer cases are expected to be diagnosed this year and more than half a million people are expected to die—about 1,500 each day. Cancer is the second-leading cause of death in the United States, exceeded only by heart disease, and one of every four deaths is from cancer.

Sadly, many of these deaths occur even though they are preventable. Tobacco and alcohol related cancer account for nearly half of all cancer cases and are completely avoidable simply by not smoking and drinking only in moderation. Many skin cancers are caused by excessive exposure to sunlight and can be prevented by the simple use of suntan lotion and reduced exposure. Screening is available for many forms of cancer, including breast, colon, rectum, cervix, prostate, testis, oral and skin. I cannot emphasize enough the importance of detecting cancer as early as possible—early treatment can mean the difference between life and death.

Today, we are within grasp of a cure for many forms of cancer but much research remains to be done. I thank God for those who are willing to labor toward this goal and pray that with their help a cure can be found and that no one will ever again have to suffer from this terrible disease.

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

ROC TO DONATE \$300 MILLION TO HELP KOSOVAR REFUGEES

HON. JOHN E. SWEENEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 10, 1999

Mr. SWEENEY. Mr. Speaker, on June 7, 1999, after chairing a meeting concerning the Kosovo crisis, President Lee Teng-hui announced that the Republic of China will donate \$300 million to help Kosovar refugees rebuild their homes. I would like to applaud the ROC for playing an active role in the "world arena" and working together to maintain world peace. Humanitarian aid to Kosovar refugees is a common goal for all countries. In recognition of their honorable deed I am submitting President Lee Teng-hui's statement regarding assistance to Kosovar refugees.

PRESIDENTIAL STATEMENT REGARDING ASSISTANCE TO KOSOVAR REFUGEES

The huge numbers of Kosovar casualties and refugees from the Kosovo area resulting from the NATO-Yugoslavia conflict in the Balkans have captured close world-wide attention. From the very outset, the government of the ROC has been deeply concerned and we are carefully monitoring the situation's development.

We in the Republic of China were pleased to learn last week that Yugoslavia Slobodan Milosevic has accepted the peace plan for the Kosovo crisis proposed by the Group of Eight countries, for which specific peace agreements are being worked out.

The Republic of China wholeheartedly looks forward to the dawning of peace on the Balkans. For more than two months, we have been concerned about the plight of the hundreds of thousands of Kosovar refugees who were forced to flee to other countries, particularly from the vantage point of our emphasis on protecting human rights. We thereby organized a Republic of China aid mission to Kosovo. Carrying essential relief items, the mission made a special trip to the refugee camps in Macedonia to lend a helping hand.

Today, as we anticipate a critical moment of forth-coming peace, I hereby make the following statement to the international community on behalf of all the nationals of the Republic of China:

As a member of the world community committed to protecting and promoting human rights, the Republic of China would like to develop further the spirit of humanitarian concern for the Kosovar refugees living in exile as well as for the war-torn areas in dire need of reconstruction. We will provide \$300 million. The aid will consist of the following:

1. Emergency support for food shelters, medical care, and education, etc. for the Kosovar refugees, living in exile in neighboring countries.
2. Short-term accommodations for some of the refugees in Taiwan, with opportunities of job training in order for them to be better equipped for the restoration of their homeland upon their return.
3. Furthermore, support the rehabilitation of Kosovo area in coordination with international long-term recovery programs when the peace plan is implemented.

We earnestly hope that the above-mentioned aid will contribute to the promotion of the peace plan for Kosovo. I wish all the refugees an early return to their safe and peaceful Kosovo homes.

June 10, 1999

A TRIBUTE TO ODUNDE

HON. ROBERT A. BRADY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 10, 1999

Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Odunde, Philadelphia's oldest and largest community-based festival, on the occasion of its 24th anniversary. The word Odunde originates from the Yoruba people of Nigeria, West Africa, and means Happy New Year. The festival is a recreation of traditional West African cultural festivals that celebrate the coming of another year through music, dance and prayer. Held in one of South Philadelphia's historically significant African American neighborhoods, Odunde attracts over 300,000 people annually and it has gained the reputation of being one of the largest African American street festivals in the United States.

Known for its authentic African marketplace with vendors selling a variety of artifacts, African clothing, educational materials and African, Caribbean and African American food, Odunde represents a tremendous economic opportunity for entrepreneurs.

Odunde is a vital cultural and educational experience that has become an important part of the Philadelphia experience. Odunde celebrates the rich cultural legacy of Africans of the diaspora and the experience enriches us all.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MARY BONO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 10, 1999

Mrs. BONO. Mr. Speaker, in light of my absence on Thursday, June 10, 1999, I wish to announce my position on the following amendments for the record: the Buyer to H.R. 1401 (rollcall vote No. 185)—Yes; the Traficant to H.R. 1401 (rollcall vote No. 186)—Yes; the Souder to H.R. 1401 (rollcall vote No. 187)—No; the Skelton to H.R. 1401 (rollcall vote No. 188)—Yes; the Shays to H.R. 1401 (rollcall vote No. 189)—No; the Weldon to H.R. 1401 (rollcall vote No. 190)—Yes.

And last, I announce my strong support for final passage of H.R. 1401, to authorize appropriations for fiscal years 2000 and 2001 for military activities of the Department of Defense, to prescribe military personnel strengths for fiscal years 2000 to 2001, and for other purposes.

VIRGINIA BEACH PROCLAMATION OF RABBI ISRAEL ZOBERMAN DAY

HON. OWEN B. PICKETT

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 10, 1999

Mr. PICKETT. Mr. Speaker, the City of Virginia Beach recently issued the following proclamation honoring Rabbi Israel Zoberman, the founding Rabbi of Beth Chaverim, the Reform Jewish Congregation of Virginia Beach: